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EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

**TERRORISTS USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO RAISE FUNDS: NIA CHIEF**

There is strong evidence to prove that militants use social media and crowdfunding platforms to raise money, says NIA. Talking to media persons ahead of 'No Money for Terror', an international ministerial conference on countering terror financing to be held in Delhi on Friday and Saturday, NIA director-general Dinkar Gupta said the issue will be discussed during the meeting. Pakistan and Afghanistan have not been invited for the meet, while China is yet to confirm its participation | P9

# Gujarat, T'gana HC Bars oppose judges' transfer

## Acting CJ of Madras HC, too, on transfer list?

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

LAWYERS in Gujarat and Telangana were up in arms on Thursday amid buzz that the Supreme Court collegium has decided to transfer Gujarat High Court judge Nikhil S Kariel and his Telangana counterpart A Abhishek Reddy to the Patna High Court for "administrative reasons".

Both the Gujarat High Court Advocates' Association (GHCAA) and the Telangana High Court Bar Association resolved to abstain from work indefinitely to protest against the transfer.

Gujarat judge Nikhil S Kariel

In its meeting on Wednesday, the collegium headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud is also said to have decided to transfer Madras High Court Acting Chief Justice T Raja to the Rajasthan High Court, again for administrative reasons.

Justice Kariel is one of the finest, honest, upright and unbiased judges whose integrity is being vouched by the entire Bar in unison, the GHCAA said in a resolution.

Though the collegium resolution confirming the proposed transfers is yet to be uploaded on the Supreme Court website, a large number of advocates gathered in the court of Gujarat Chief Justice Aravind Kumar in the afternoon at a time when proceedings were being live-streamed.

When the intrigued CJ sought to inquire about the sudden rush of the Bar in court, senior advocate Mihir Thakore said they were against the proposed transfer of Justice Kariel wished to observe two minutes of silence in mourning. "We are here to mourn the death of independent judiciary," Thakore added.

Another member of the Bar sought to blame it on Chief Justice Aravind Kumar, saying such transfers are done in consultation with the CJ. Later in the day, the GHCAA resolved to abstain from work indefinitely till the issue is resolved.

A similar decision was taken by the Telangana HC Bar Association in its extraordinary meeting on Thursday. The president of the association said the transfer of Justice Reddy is arbitrary and affects the independence of the judiciary.

# Govt files review petition on Rajiv case remission

SHRUTI KAKKAR @ New Delhi

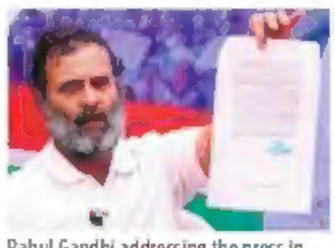
THE Centre on Thursday moved the Supreme Court challenging the top court's November 11 order releasing six convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. In its review petition, the Centre pointed out that it was not made a party to the hearing and, hence, its stance was not heard. Consequently, several glaring errors on record were not brought to the court's notice, it added.

"It is extremely crucial to mention that out of the six convicts who have been granted remission, four are Sri Lankan nationals. Granting remission to terrorists of foreign nation, who had been duly convicted in accordance with the law of land for gruesome offence of assassinating the former Prime Minister of the country, is a matter which has international ramification and therefore falls squarely within the sovereign powers of the Union of India," the plea stated.

The Centre pointed out that the procedural lapses on part of the convicts resulted in non participation of the Union government in subsequent hearings of the case.

"The convicts, while filing the special leave petition, had not made Union of India a party respondent despite it being a necessary and proper party. It is evident that the principles of natural justice, the aim of which is to secure justice or to put it negatively to prevent miscarriage of justice, have been grossly compromised," it added.

On November 11, a bench of judges B R Gavai and B V Nagarathna had ordered the release of S Nalini, R P Ravichandran, Jayakumar, Santhan, Murugan and Robert Pius, noting that they displayed good conduct in prison and had been behind bars for a very long period.


Rahul Gandhi addressing the press in Akola district on Thursday | PTI

# Rahul keeps up attack on Savarkar, cites mercy petition

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Akola

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday kept the controversy surrounding Veer Savarkar's role during the independence movement on the boil here, claiming he wrote a mercy petition to the British Raj out of fear while assuring he would not be part of the freedom struggle any longer.

Waving a copy of the mercy petition, Rahul said while leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel and Pandit Nehru went to jail during the freedom struggle but never wrote such a groveling letter to the British government, "Savarkar surrendered before the British and even filed the mercy petition."

"I will read the last line (of mercy petition), which says 'I beg to remain your most obedient servant' and is signed V D Savarkar. It shows he helped the British," Rahul alleged.

Later in the day, Savarkar's grandson lodged a police complaint against Rahul in Mumbai for "insulting" his grandfather.

Congress leaders MB Patil, Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar and Dr G Parameshwara address media persons at KPCC office in Bengaluru on Thursday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

# Voter ID theft: Cong blames CM, minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE state Congress launched a frontal attack on Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Higher Education Minister C N Ashwathnarayan over the alleged theft of voters' data, fraud and impersonation, by allowing private firms to revise the voters' list. The Congress leaders said Bommai, who is in-charge of Bengaluru city, should be held responsible for the alleged theft in 28 assembly constituencies in Bengaluru.

AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, Opposition leader Siddaramaiah and and KPCC president D K Shivakumar demanded a high-level inquiry to be set up by Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court.

They alleged that members of Chilume Enterprises Pvt Ltd and DAP Hombale Pvt Ltd have gone to the people claiming that they are an election management company and that they prepare EVMs for political parties. "We had so far heard that EVMs are made by the government," the leaders said, accusing the government of being responsible for identity theft, criminal conspiracy and misappropriation of property by using the service of an NGO.

First, the private firm representatives pretended to be government officials, second, they procured fake identity cards, and third, they illegally collected information from voters, besides uploading it on a private app and selling it for commercial purposes. CONTINUED ON : P4

# Travesty of justice if Shakereh's killer set free: Victim's ex-hubby

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

"IT would be a travesty of justice if every murderer is going to seek mercy merely because the accomplices of the assassins of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi have been released by the Supreme Court," said former Indian diplomat, Akbar Khaleeli. He was reacting to the plea of his first wife Shakereh's killer **Shraddhanand** alias Murali Manohar Misra, who was convicted in the case and was awarded life sentence until death. Shraddhanand sought parity with the convicts of the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case on Wednesday, and pleaded before the apex court for early release.

Khaleeli said that he along with his daughter had met Home Minister Araga Jnanendra some months ago. "I said that we want the Supreme Court judgment against Shraddhanand to be maintained in letter and spirit. He was kind enough to assure us that they would do their best to respect the apex court judgment," said Khaleeli. He argued that since the case was fought by the state of Karnataka, "it should oppose any attempt to release Shraddhanand, especially if no reference has been made to them by the Madhya Pradesh government. The primary responsibility lies with the Karnataka government. The home secretary and state government should ensure that their standing counsel opposes any move to release him".

On Shraddhanand seeking parity with Rajiv's assassins, Khaleeli said that if at all, the Shakereh murder case should be compared with the Nirbhaya case. "Shraddhanand is a murderer. The Rajiv Gandhi assassination convicts who have been released from prison were accessories. The main assassins had committed suicide," he added.

CONTINUED ON: P4

**EXPRESS READ**

**Saras Mk 2 may dot skies in Tier 2 & 3 cities**

Bengaluru: Developed by National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bengaluru, in collaboration with the CSIR, the Saras Mk 2 may soon become a common sight in Karnataka's skies. It can ferry passengers to Tier-2 and 3 cities," said Naman Dugar, a scientist at NAL. P2

**Foresters admit to lapses in tigress death**

Bengaluru: The death of a tigress in a snare in a private field, just 300 metres away from Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, has sent the forest department officials into a tizzy. Senior officials in the department admit that there could be lapses in the surveillance in finding snares. P5

New Mangalore Port Authority
Maritime Gateway to Karnataka
Yet another Feather in the Crown of New Mangalore Port
New Mangalore Port Authority received ISO 45001:2018 Certification for Occupational, Health & Safety Management Systems w.e.f.01-11-2022
100% SOLAR POWERED PORT
Certifications:
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14001:2015 for Environmental Compliance
45001:2018 for Occupational, Health and Safety Management
ISPS Compliance for Security Assurance
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100% solar powered sea port in the country
Recipient of Greentech Award for the consecutive 6 years
Recipient of Clean and Green port award from MoPSW
Pioneer in Digitization and Automation among Major Ports
Operating Ratio and Operating Margins comparable with Non-major Ports.
"We are committed to reach further heights in line with Maritime India Vision 2030 and Vision 2047 for Amrit Kaal. Transforming With The Time"
Dr. A.V. Ramana
Chairman

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